

RI – WEEKLY NEWS

WEEK 21 | 17 - 23 May 2025

ECONOMY

April 2025 Inflation Remains Steady

The Star – 23 May 2025

Headline inflation in April 2025 rose by 1.4%, matching March 2025's rate but slightly below the 1.5% recorded in February 2025, according to the Department of Statistics Malaysia. The consumer price index (CPI) stood at 134.3, up from 132.4 in April 2024. Core inflation edged up to 2% in April 2025, driven by personal care, social protection, miscellaneous goods and services, food and beverage, and restaurant and accommodation services.

GOVERNMENT

Housing Ministry Mulling New Law to Address Abandoned Commercial Properties ☐ The Star − 17 May 2025

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government Malaysia is considering a new Real Property Development Act (RPDA) to address abandoned commercial properties and enhance consumer protection. Currently, mixed developments such as small office/flexible office (SOFO), small office/versatile office (SOVO), retail and commercial units are not covered under the Housing Development Act 1966 (Act 118), leaving buyers without legal recourse. The RPDA aims to expand Act 118 to include certain commercial projects and introduce an Option to Purchase (OTP) mechanism, allowing buyers to exit agreements if project progress is unsatisfactory.

Kuala Lumpur Low-Cost Housing Rent Arrears Reach RM70 Million ☐ The Star – 18 May 2025

Unpaid rent for Kuala Lumpur City Hall's (DBKL) People's Housing Project (PPR) and Public Housing (PA) has reached RM70 million, affecting facility maintenance, says Mayor Datuk Seri Maimunah Mohd Sharif. DBKL has responded with measures such as water supply cuts, notices, financial advocacy programmes, and instalment plans. The Mayor added that DBKL is considering allowing eligible tenants to purchase their units, revisiting the 2015 decision to suspend sales.

Johor Introduces Rumah Prihatin Johor Initiative for Rural B40 Group ☐ The Edge − 19 May 2025

The Johor State Government has launched the Rumah Prihatin Johor (RPJ) initiative to support rural B40 households not listed under the e-Kasih database, starting in 2025. Aimed at helping them own affordable homes on their own land, each 660 sq. ft. unit (with three bedrooms and two bathrooms) is priced at RM86,000. The State Government will subsidise RM30,000, while participants will cover the remaining RM56,000. Eligible applicants must be Malaysian, married, aged 21 and above, with a household income not exceeding RM5,000 and must not own a house or have received housing aid. The pilot will begin in Kluang and Kulai with 10 units each.

Johor-Singapore SEZ Comprehensive Blueprint to be Finalised by End-2025

The Edge - 19 May 2025

A comprehensive blueprint for the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone (JS-SEZ) is set to be finalised and unveiled by end-2025, according to Economy Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Rafizi Ramli. The blueprint will serve as a one-stop reference for investors, regulators and the public, detailing fiscal incentives, strategic direction and the zone's development roadmap. Malaysia and Singapore signed an agreement in January 2025 to establish the JS-SEZ, targeting 100 projects worth RM100 billion and 100,000 jobs within a decade. The zone spans Kulai, parts of Pontian and Pengerang, and includes special tax incentives to attract high-value investments.

CONSTRUCTION

Smart Construction Key to Cutting Emissions

The Edge – 20 May 2025

The construction sector accounts for around 38% of global carbon emissions and 24% in Malaysia, positioning it as a key area for climate action towards achieving national carbon neutrality by 2050. Smart construction marks a shift from conventional methods to more sustainable practices that reduce environmental impact while delivering social and economic value. Covering the full lifecycle of buildings and infrastructure, from design and material selection to construction, operation, maintenance and eventual demolition, smart construction uses technology and data to optimise resources, cut waste, and support long-term sustainability.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Russian Airline Keen on Operating Direct Flights to Malaysia

The Star – 17 May 2025

A Russian airline has expressed interest in launching direct flights from Russia to Malaysia to boost tourism, according to Russian Deputy Transport Minister Vladimir Poteshkin. Following discussions with Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Russian President Vladimir Putin noted that both countries are exploring the possibility of establishing direct air links, citing a rise in tourist exchanges.

Penang Could Convert Undersea Tunnel into Bridge

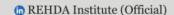
The Edge - 22 May 2025

The Penang State Government is reviewing a design change for the Penang Third Link project, potentially replacing the proposed undersea tunnel with a bridge across the Penang Strait. A feasibility study completed in 2023 included this alternative option, with a final decision to be made once the current study on the new design is completed. Traffic impact and other assessments will follow the finalisation of the conceptual design. The 6.5-kilometre link, connecting Gurney Drive to Bagan Ajam, is part of the Penang Transport Master Plan.

RI - Weekly News is published by REHDA Institute

Wisma REHDA, First Floor, No 2C, Jalan SS5D/6, Kelana Jaya, 47301 Petaling Jaya, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia.

Tel: (603) 7803 6006 Fax: (603) 7880 3823 Website: www.rehdainstitute.com Email: inquiry@rehdainstitute.com



• REHDA Institute

? REHDA INSTITUTE

@ REHDA Institute